

CRIMINALIST II

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The fundamental reason the Criminalist II exists is to perform professional level work involved in the examination, identification, and evaluation of physical evidence in the investigation of crimes for the Police Department. This classification is non-supervisory and receives general supervision from the Crime Laboratory Manager.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Makes chemical or physical analyses and microscopic examination in the examination, identification, evaluation, and comparison of physical evidence in the investigation of crimes.

Operates a microscope requiring visual and muscular dexterity; operates various laboratory equipment and safely works with various chemicals and powders. Lifts and moves evidence. Visually distinguishes the full range of the color spectrum to perform testing of drugs and body fluids.

Operates a variety of standard office and laboratory equipment, including a personal computer and a microscope, which require continuous and repetitive eye and arm or hand movement.

Examines, identifies, interprets, evaluates suspected evidence which includes narcotics, dangerous drugs and blood alcohol, serology, trace and arson samples. Follows prescribed procedures and policies. Provides general scientific information as requested.

Compares analytical findings with known standards. Discusses laboratory test results with other lab professionals, officers, and attorneys and provides expert testimony in court.

Comprehends and follows detailed, highly technical oral and written instructions to prepare clear, concise, comprehensive reports and records. Prepares and presents detailed reports. Studies techniques and procedures in the field of forensic science.

Responds to requests to gather evidence at crime scenes and works together as a team towards a common goal. Follows collection policies and procedures.

Chemically identifies and quantifies compounds. Interprets scientific data. Lifts and moves evidence. Safely works with various chemicals and powders.

Communicates and deals effectively with co-workers, the general public, and other law enforcement agencies' staff.

Collects and preserves evidence at crime scenes. Performs work satisfactorily in a variety of unusual working environments such as arson, rape and homicide scenes at which deceased persons, body fluid, hair and fibers, weapons and other materials must be handled.

Maintain regular consistent attendance and punctuality.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

Modern criminal investigation and identification techniques and procedures.

Legal requirements relating to physical evidence.
Tools, instruments and equipment used in making laboratory analyses of collected evidence.
Recent developments, current literature, and sources of information in the field of criminalistics.
Basic uses and effects of drugs.
Basic principles involved in scientific examination of physical evidence.
The principles of chemistry, physics, biochemistry, physiology and photography as related to forensic science; basic uses and effects of drugs; hazards and toxicity of chemicals.
The operation, maintenance, care and use of scientific instruments and apparatus used in a crime laboratory.

Ability to:

Perceive the full range of the color spectrum.
Comprehend and make inferences from material written in the English language.
Work cooperatively with other City employees.
Communicate in English by phone or in person in a one-to-one or group setting.
Produce written documents in English with clearly organized thoughts using proper sentence construction, punctuation and grammar.
Learn job-related material through oral instruction, observation, structured lecture and reading in the English language.
Instruct others in a classroom setting.
Observe or monitor objects to determine compliance with prescribed operating and safety standards.
Measure distances using a measuring device.
Enter data or information into a terminal, PC or other keyboard device.
Work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others.
Learn and apply rules of evidence, criminal procedure, crime scene procedures, state and federal statutes and case law covering drugs and the use of physical evidence in court.
Visually distinguish the full range of color spectrum in order to perform testing of drugs and body fluids.
Operate a personal computer, a variety of software, and other office and laboratory equipment essential to performing daily activities.

Education & Experience

A Bachelor's degree in chemistry, physical science, or a related field with a minimum of 30 semester hours in chemistry and five years of experience as a Criminalist in a recognized crime laboratory.

FLSA Status: Exempt

HR Ordinance Status: Unclassified